In the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-2. (canceled)

3. ~~(currently amended)~~ ~~A method for the treatment of glaucoma which~~ comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels of eye retinal ganglion cells ~~or other pressure sensitive retinal ganglion cellular mechanisms~~ so as to protect retinal ganglion cells from apoptotic cell death.

4-9 (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said at least one compound is administered by way of eye drop or systemically.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Gadolinium (Gd^{3+}), agonists of Gd^{3+} on neural cells, pyrazine-carboxamides, aminoglycoside antibiotics, netilmycin, sodium channel blockers, calcium channel blockers, potassium channel blockers, calcium ions, protons, aluminum ions, tubocurarine, halothane and other inhalational anaesthetics, quinine, integrin-blocking peptides and antibodies, cisplatin, tarantula spider venom, and ~~colchicin~~ colchicine.

12. (currently amended) An eye drop solution ~~composition~~ for the treatment of glaucoma which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch activated channels of eye retinal ganglion cells ~~or other pressure sensitive mechanisms of retinal ganglion cells~~, said at least one compound being in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients, wherein said at least one compound having a concentration sufficient to protect retinal ganglion cells from apoptotic cell death.

13. (currently amended) A device for administering a solution to the eye, wherein the improvement comprises the eye drop solution ~~The method~~ of claim 12~~, wherein said at least one compound is administered by way of eye drop or systemically~~.

14. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ eye drop solution of claim 12, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Gadolinium (Gd3+), agonists of Gd3+ on neural cells, pyrazine-carboxamides, aminoglycoside antibiotics, netilmycin, sodium channel blockers, calcium channel blockers, potassium channel blockers, calcium ions, protons,

aluminum ions, tubocurarine, halothane and other inhalational anaesthetics, quinine, integrin-blocking peptides and antibodies, cisplatin, tarantula spider venom, and ~~colchicin~~ colchicine.

15. (withdrawn) A method of protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell death which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks the effects of pressure on neuronal cells.

16. (withdrawn) A method of protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell death which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells.

17. (withdrawn) A method for the treatment of the effects of elevated brain pressure which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in brain neuronal cells.

18. (withdrawn) A method for the treatment of peripheral nerve damage which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells.

19. (withdrawn) A composition for protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell death which comprises at least one compound which blocks the effects of pressure on neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

20. (withdrawn) A composition for the treatment of glaucoma which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

21. (withdrawn) A composition for the treatment of elevated brain pressure which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in brain neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

22. (withdrawn) A composition for the treatment of peripheral nerve damage which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels in peripheral

neuronal cells (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.